IN THE CLAIMS:

Set forth below in ascending order, with status identifiers, is a complete listing of all claims currently under examination. Changes to any amended claims are indicated by strikethrough and underlining. This listing also reflects any cancellation and/or addition of claims.

1-23. (cancelled)

24.   (new) A method for using a single sound card to output audio data from multiple entertainment sources that include a media player and game software, comprising:

presenting a plurality of virtual devices to a user with each virtual device corresponding to a selection of a set of speakers from a group of speakers in different locations, the presenting including displaying a list of the plurality of virtual devices on a graphical user interface;

receiving a first selection from the user associating a media player application with at least one of the plurality of virtual devices such that the first selection determines a first assignment of speakers to the media player application;

receiving a second selection from the user associating a game software application with at least one of the plurality of virtual devices such that the second selection determines a second assignment of speakers to the game software application; and

using a plurality of virtual device drivers to write audio data streams for the media application and the game software into a system memory accessible by the single sound card and to program the single sound card to associate audio data streams of the media application and the game software with output audio channels based on the user's selections of virtual devices; and

the single sound card operative to simultaneously output audio according to the first speaker assignment and the second speaker assignment with the single sound card performing any mixing required to output audio from the media player application and the game software on one or more shared speakers.

25.   (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the different locations of the group of speakers includes different rooms in a house.

26.   (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the different locations of the group of speakers includes different positions within one room of a house.

27.   (new) A method for using a single sound card to output audio data from multiple entertainment sources that include a video player and game software, comprising:

presenting a plurality of virtual devices to a user with each virtual device corresponding to a selection of a set of speakers from a group of speakers in different locations, the presenting including displaying a list of the plurality of virtual devices on a graphical user interface;

receiving a first selection from the user associating a video player application with at least one of the plurality of virtual devices such that the first selection determines a first assignment of speakers to the video player application;

receiving a second selection from the user associating a game software application with at least one of the plurality of virtual devices such that the second selection determines a second assignment of speakers to the game software application; and

using a plurality of virtual device drivers to write audio data streams for the video player application and the game software into a system memory accessible by the single sound card and to program the single sound card to associate audio data streams of the video player application and the game software with output audio channels based on the user's selections of virtual devices; and

the single sound card operative to simultaneously output audio according to the first speaker assignment and the second speaker assignment with the single sound card performing any mixing required to output audio from the video player application and the game software on one or more shared speakers.

28.   (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the different locations of the group of speakers includes different rooms in a house.

29.   (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the different locations of the group of speakers includes different positions within one room of a house.

30.   (new) A method for using a single sound card to output audio data from multiple entertainment sources that include a media player and a video player, comprising:

presenting a plurality of virtual devices to a user with each virtual device corresponding to a selection of a set of speakers from a group of speakers in different locations, the presenting including displaying a list of the plurality of virtual devices on a graphical user interface;

receiving a first selection from the user associating a media player application with at least one of the plurality of virtual devices such that the first selection determines a first assignment of speakers to the media player application;

receiving a second selection from the user associating a video player application with at least one of the plurality of virtual devices such that the second selection determines a second assignment of speakers to the video player application; and

using a plurality of virtual device drivers to write audio data streams for the media application and the video player application into a system memory accessible by the single sound card and to program the single sound card to associate audio data streams of the media application and the video player application with output audio channels based on the user's selections of virtual devices; and

the single sound card operative to simultaneously output audio according to the first speaker assignment and the second speaker assignment with the single sound card performing any mixing required to output audio from the media player application and the video player application on one or more shared speakers.

31.   (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the different locations of the group of speakers includes different rooms in a house.

32.   (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the different locations of the group of speakers includes different positions within one room of a house.